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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, as a Nation who believes in Your Divine providence, we have seen Your right hand guide us in the past. Time and time again our Union has been tested by economic threat, civil demonstration, war, natural disaster, misdeeds and negligence of the past, as well as foreign attacks.

During these days, we place our trust in You again. Humbled by the complexity and varied issues that face this Nation, we beg for Your wisdom to guide us, prudence to make good judgments, patience to deal with one another, perseverance toward the goal of justice, and compassion for those most in need.

By these virtues, Lord, manifest Your presence in our midst. This we ask now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUTHRIE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EMPLOYER-OWNED LIFE INSURANCE LIMITATION ACT

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Today I told my staff, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that I had to cancel their health insurance policy. It was just too expensive. But here's the good news. I'm taking out a huge life insurance policy on all of my employees. So if you get sick and die, I told them, Don't worry. I've got you covered.

Now, I didn't tell them that I made the insurance policies payable to me—LUIS GUTIERREZ. I didn't tell them that I'll use the benefits for myself and I'm just going to line my pockets.

Sound ridiculous? Sound wrong? Sound unfair? You're right. It is.

So today I'm introducing the Employer-Owned Life Insurance Limitation Act. All across America, companies take out life insurance policies on their employees. They spend \$8 billion a year on these premiums, but the benefits go to the employers—big companies like Winn-Dixie, Wal-Mart, Dow Chemical, Procter & Gamble, and even Disney—and the employees don't even know about it.

In a Nation where millions of full-time workers have no health insurance, corporate America is finding a way to line their pockets with life insurance, profiting from their deaths. Maybe if we prevent companies from betting on the death of their employees, they will invest in the health of their employees.

H1N1 VIRUS

(Mr. GUTHRIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTHRIE. As cold and flu season is quickly approaching, media reports in my district and around the country are reporting on the exposure to the H1N1 virus.

I recently met with the Kentucky Pork Producers, who raise concerns that the media and individuals referring to the H1N1 flu virus as the "swine flu" is having a negative effect on them.

Because it is referred to as the "swine flu," individuals may think that the H1N1 virus can be caught from eating or handling pork. However, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack have repeated on various occasions that this is not a food-borne illness, but a respiratory virus.

Secretary Vilsack said recently that the virus should not be called "swine flu" because there is no indication that any swine from the United States has been infected, nor is there any significant risk of transmission by eating pork.

Pork and pork products are safe, and H1N1 virus cannot be acquired from eating pork. There are a lot of hard-working families in my district and across the country whose livelihoods are harmed by this misconception.

VICTIMS OF THE TSUNAMI

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember those who have lost their lives as result of the recent tsunami in American Samoa and the region and to also offer my condolences on behalf of the people of Guam. I ask that this Congress support our colleague, Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA, to ensure that all of the appropriate assets from the Federal Government are brought to bear to help the Samoan people recover from this disaster.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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